

Appl. No. 10/728,060
Amdt. Dated 02/28/2007
Reply to Office Action of November 9, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 (Canceled)

41. (New) A reusable filter for replacing a throw away filter cartridge for an internal combustion engine of the type having a filter cartridge, said reusable filter comprising,
a can like housing, said can like housing having a closed bottom and an inside surface with internal threads,
a filter cartridge, said filter cartridge having an upper cup like member and a lower cup like member, and
a cap, said cap having an internally threaded central hub for connecting to an internal combustion engine, said cap having at least two oil distribution channels, each oil distribution channel having an inlet and an outlet, each inlet positioned substantially over said upper cup like member and said filter, each outlet positioned outside said upper cup like member and said filter, each oil distribution channel extending continuously downwardly and radially outwardly to distribute oil to said inside surface of said can like housing, said cap threadably connected to said can like housing to clamp said filter cartridge between said cap and said closed bottom.

42. (New) The reusable filter of claim 41 wherein said filter cartridge includes a woven metal mesh filter.

43. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 wherein the woven metal mesh filter element is pleated.

44. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 wherein said woven metal mesh filter element is made of stainless steel.

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45. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 wherein said cap further includes a seal ring, said seal ring positioned outside said inlets for sealing against an oil filter mount of an internal combustion engine.

46. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 further comprising an O-ring seal between said cap and said upper cup like member.

47. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 further comprising an O-ring seal between said lower cup like member and said closed bottom.

48. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 further comprising an O-ring seal between said cap and said can like housing.

49. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 further comprising a raised center section on said closed bottom of said can housing.

50. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 further including a bypass valve responsive to a predetermined pressure difference between an outer periphery and an inner periphery of the filter element to provide an oil flow path between the outer periphery and the inner periphery of the filter element when the pressure difference rises above the predetermined pressure difference, said bypass valve being between said filter cartridge and said closed bottom, said bypass valve being clamped between said filter cartridge and said closed bottom.

51. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 further comprised of an internally and externally threaded insert fitting within the first opening, whereby a specific reusable filter may be used on any of a plurality of engines having different oil filter mounts.

52. (New) The reusable filter of claim 42 wherein the at least two oil distribution channels comprise annular arc segment openings collectively occupying most of a full annular area and distributed around the internally threaded central hub for connecting to an internal combustion engine.

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53. (New) A reusable filter for replacing a throw away filter for an internal combustion engine of the type having a filter cartridge, said reusable oil filter comprising, a can like housing, said can like housing having a closed bottom and an inside surface with internal threads, a filter cartridge, said filter cartridge having an upper cup like member and a lower cup like member and a woven metal mesh filter element, and a cap, said cap having an internally threaded central hub and at least two oil distribution channels, each oil distribution channel having an inlet and an outlet, each inlet positioned substantially over upper cup like member and said filter, each outlet positioned outside said upper cup like member and said filter, each oil distribution channel extending continuously downwardly and radially outwardly to distribute oil to said inside surface of said can like housing, said cap threadably connected to said can like housing to clamp said filter cartridge between said cap and said closed bottom.
54. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 wherein said filter cartridge and said woven metal mesh filter element are made of stainless steel.
55. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 wherein the woven metal mesh filter element is pleated.
56. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 wherein said cap further includes a seal ring, said seal ring positioned outside said inlets.
57. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 further comprising an O-ring seal between said cap and said upper cup like member.
58. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 further comprising an O-ring seal between said cap and said can like housing.
59. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 further comprising a raised center section on said closed bottom of said can housing.

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60. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 further including a bypass valve responsive to a predetermined pressure difference between an outer periphery and an inner periphery of the filter element to provide an oil flow path between the outer periphery and the inner periphery of the filter element when the pressure difference rises above the predetermined pressure difference.

61. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 further comprised of an internally and externally threaded insert fitting within the first opening, whereby a specific reusable filter may be used on any of a plurality of engines having different oil filter mounts.

62. (New) The reusable filter of claim 53 wherein the at least two oil distribution channels comprise annular arc segment openings collectively occupying most of a full annular area and distributed around the internally threaded central hub for connecting to an internal combustion engine.